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Missionaries battling Satan for 6M souls

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Three Chinese tourists pose for pictures at the base of a huge tower of rock that for generations has drawn admirers and worshipers to this small valley in central China's Wuling Mountains. The gray and white column of stone, which local Tujia (pronounced Too-JAH) villagers worship, fascinates tourists. From certain angles, an optical illusion makes the giant rock look precariously balanced, as if the playful push of a child could send it toppling into a creek below.

While this may be a "Kodak moment" for visiting tourists, the rock is anything but child's play for the Tujia, an unreachable people group of more than 6 million people. More than 2 billion people in 1,739 ethnic people groups like the Tujia have little or no access to the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

The Tujia believe the rock has special powers, explains "Eric Jones," (not his real name) who, along with his wife, "Lynn," are Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) strategy coordinators for the Tujia.

"This is what Paul was talking about in Romans: 'They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator,'" Jones said, quoting Rom. 1:25.

"Satan has a grip on the Tujia," he added. "There is so little light here to show people that this thing is just a rock. But the dawn is coming. Satan is work-

ing to keep things the way they have been for hundreds of years, but there's nothing he can do to stop the dawn from coming."

Among the 6 million Tujia, there are about 30,000 Christians. Most Tujia hold to a mix of shamanism, Taoism and ancestral worship.

Shamanism depends on magic to appease an unseen world of demons and gods; Taoism focuses on both moral teachings and Taoist priests to bring order and prosperity to life; and acts of ancestral worship result from the belief that the eternal happiness of deceased ancestors depends on the spiritual care of living family members.

Other Christians who are working with the Joneses to plant churches among the Tujia report a real spiritual hunger, Lynn Jones said. One (Han) Chinese Christian who was teaching from the Bible in a Tujia village said it was difficult drawing the village Bible studies to a close.

"Once the meetings began it

was hard to stop," she said. "The meetings continued into the night, sometimes past midnight. The people were begging for more study and prayer."

Yet most Tujia are far from this kind of spiritual hunger for God, Eric Jones said.

"When we have the chance to speak about Jesus to those willing to give us a hearing, we often see a response and lives are turned toward God," he said, "but Satan's deceptions remain strong here. Things like this rock remain the objects of their worship. Scripture has called Satan the deceiver. How sad it is that his lies are the foundation of their hope."

After a few more poses, the tourists circle the rock and a few seconds later laugh out loud with their change of perspective. From this new view, the stone's optical illusion vanishes, turning the teetering tower into a solid outcropping.

The Joneses know a similar change of perspective is coming for the Tujia. "Satan's lies are no match for our Lord's truth. We know that day is coming."

How to pray for the Tujia:

◆ Pray that the gospel message recently presented to several people will take hold of hearts.

◆ Ask God to call out people to join the Joneses' team.

◆ Ask God to strengthen and guide the first new team member who has joined the Joneses in their effort. Pray that she would make a smooth transition into the Tujia culture.

If you would like to be a prayer partner with the team taking the gospel to the Tujia, call (800) 772-9562.



WRITING THE DEAD — A Tujia man writes a message to a recently deceased woman. Later the message will be burned in the belief it will reach her that way. Central China's 6 million Tujia people follow a mixture of shamanism, Taoism, and ancestor worship. Only about 30,000 are Christians. (BP photo by Don Martin)

2,000 needed for Asia campaign

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Two thousand Southern Baptists are needed to help with nationwide evangelistic campaigns the next two years in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea, reported Dub Jackson, Asia crusade coordinator for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. The crusades — in which teams of 10 U.S. Baptist volunteers work with overseas Baptist congregations — are being held this summer through the spring of 2001, he said.

Baek Chul Key, president of the Korean Baptist Home Mission Board, told Jackson: "Our convention has stopped growing. We are praying that this major partnership effort will return us to the aggressive church we were in the 1970s." The International Mission Board has promised to deliver the volunteers necessary to conduct the Asian crusades, he reported.

"This cannot happen without the miraculous moving of our Lord in our hearts and a new commitment to serve wherever he shall lead," Jackson acknowledged. "As we decide whether the Lord would have us go on one of these partnership campaigns, our only prayer should be, 'Lord, do you want me to go?'" he advised.

The campaigns are:

- ◆ Hong Kong, 20 teams, July 29-Aug. 9, 1999.
- ◆ Taiwan, five teams, Nov. 4-15, 1999.
- ◆ Japan, 20 teams, June 21-July 3, 2000.
- ◆ Korea, 100 teams, Oct. 18-31, 2000.
- ◆ Taiwan, nationwide crusade, spring of 2001.

For more information, contact Jackson's office at Southwestern Seminary. Phone (817) 923-6280 or (817) 923-1921, ext. 4871; e-mail asiapartnership1@juno.com.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Carey dedicates building

3

Gulfshore wing reopened

4

"How much is enough?"

5

Letters to the editor

9

Looking back

10 years ago

Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) since 1980, resigns to join a group seeking to purchase the ACTS network. RTVC trustees elect executive vice-president Richard T. McCartney as interim chief executive officer.

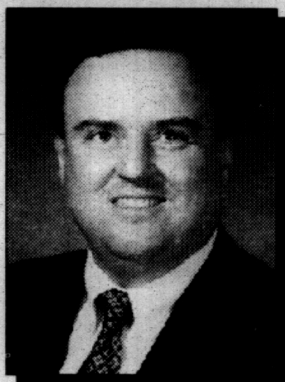
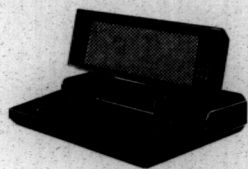
20 years ago

The Baptist Building in downtown Jackson is closed for a week due to record flood waters of the Pearl River that have put over 8,000 homes underwater in the Jackson area. The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit is on the job in north Jackson, producing thousands of meals a day.

50 years ago

Judd R. Allen, pastor of Parkway Chapel at the Jackson Air Base, is ordained at Toulumville Church, Mobile, Ala. Allen was called to the ministry in August 1947 and entered Mississippi College in Clinton in the fall of that year.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Death: God's responsibility, not ours

Very few of us make it into our teen years without tasting the bitterness of death in some context. It may be the merciful departure of a suffering grandparent, or the sudden passing of a deeply-loved parent, or the tragedy of a close friend's misspent life, but practically everyone has been touched by death within the first decade-and-a-half of their lives.

For the Christian, death holds no mystery. By virtue of our personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, when we depart this earthly realm we will take our place in Heaven with the Father, the Son, and the Christians who have gone before us.

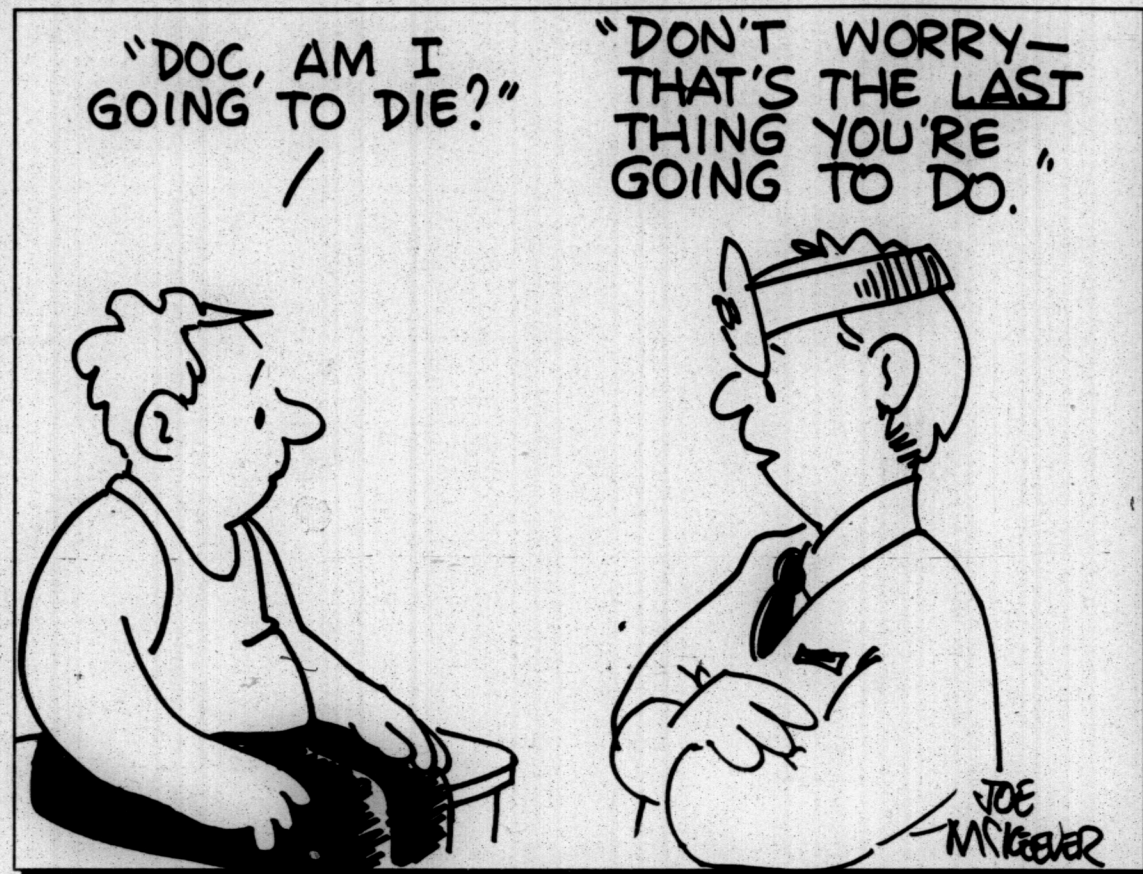
God made it that simple for a reason, namely because it had to be simple for us to understand and accept it. We should be cautious not to splice our own man-made misconceptions and preconditions into the perfect simplicity of God's plan for our daily lives, earthly deaths, and eternal security.

Christians understand that our passing is known only to the Father, who in his good time and for his own purposes will call us home at the appointed hour. We know that even circumstances of death which seem untimely or tragic can be used of God to accomplish his will.

We acknowledge that just as God is solely responsible for the creation of life, so should the responsibility for finishing life be placed in his capable hands.

There are quite a few people, however, who would like nothing better than to wrest that responsibility from God's hands and place it in their own hands. Dr. Jack Kevorkian, while not the only offender, is a prime example of this attitude.

Kevorkian has been in the news of late because of his conviction in a Michigan courtroom for second-degree murder in the assisted-suicide death of a terminally-ill man. His death was broadcast on the popular "60 Minutes" television newsmagazine.



Kevorkian has been involved in assisted suicides for a long time. Newsweek magazine recently reported that if all of Kevorkian's victims were considered homicides (and they should be), the good doctor would account for over 10% of all the homicides committed in this decade in Oakland County, Michigan — the base for his death-dealing operation.

The "60 Minutes" broadcast, however, was different. Where Kevorkian previously provided only the mechanical means and technical advice to people who wanted to kill themselves, he actually injected the deadly chemicals into the veins of the terminally-ill man on the television broadcast.

Kevorkian followed that despicable act, as he always does, with a defiant dare to

authorities to prosecute him. Well, Oakland County authorities took him up on his dare and he's now a convicted felon.

It's no revelation that America is enthralled with a culture of death, as personified by Jack Kevorkian.

Maybe the conviction of "Dr. Death" Kevorkian — a moniker he proudly wore like a badge of honor — signals the beginning of a weariness with the culture of death that has descended over this country in recent decades.

One day soon, maybe we'll return to God that which belonged to him in the first place and should never have been taken from him: the power of life and death.

We can hope, but more importantly, we can pray. Let's start right now.

On June 14-15, Southern Baptists from all across the U.S. will gather in Atlanta for the last meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in the 20th century.

As such, there is an historical significance attached to the Atlanta convention, but what is more crucially important is that the theme of the Atlanta convention, "His Tears, Our Task," will be a focus on the strategic cities of America and the obligation and mandate of Christ to love the peoples of those cities sufficiently to take the Gospel to them.

Consequently, this constitutes an earnest request of the part of the president of the Southern Baptist Convention that you set aside now those dates on your calendar and plan to be an elected messenger for your church to the 1999 Southern Baptist Convention.

My request is that you join us in a giant prayer meeting and strategy session led by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in the pre-convention Arms Around Atlanta effort culminating in Crossover Metro Atlanta on June 6-19, as we gear our hearts toward the evangelization of the great unreached masses in

GUEST OPINION:



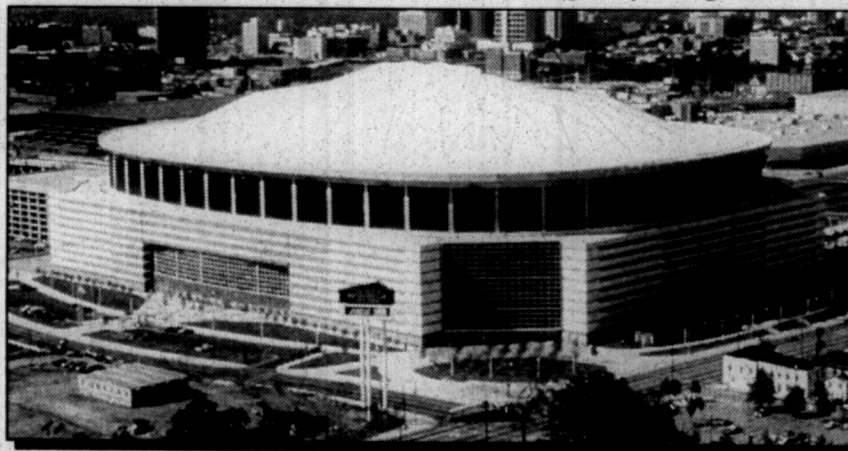
Plan to be a part of 'His Tears, Our Task'

By Paige Patterson, president
Southern Baptist Convention

the cities of our country.

Just about all who have studied the situation believe that we can indeed reach and baptize more than 500,000 people for

the first time in our history, from October 1999 to September 2000 — but if we do so, it will only be because we have diligently sought the face



The Georgia Dome in Atlanta will be site of the 1999 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting on June 14-16.

of God and his intervention, unified ourselves around the evangelistic task, and prepared ourselves for the demanding task at hand.

The program will feature testimonies from those who have made the Gospel come alive in the inner cities of our country, such as Green Bay Packers professional football player Reggie White; our own Duane and Iris Blue; and the remarkable story of Charles Lyons and the Armitage Baptist Church in Chicago.

As the launching pad to the 21st century, I do not think Southern Baptists will ever have met in a more critically important and strategic convention.

Will you be willing to lay before the Lord with urgency the possibility that you should join us for the year's convention in Atlanta? If God so prompts, we will see you at 8:15 a.m. on June 14 in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

God bless you.

Patterson is president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He may be contacted at P.O. Box 1889, Wake Forest, N.C. 27588-1889. E-mail: ppatterson@sebts.edu

NAMB prepares for possible Kosovar resettlement

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — If United States begins accepting refugees from war-torn Kosovo, Southern Baptists likely will be among those asked to help, the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) immigration ministries specialist said.

"At this point, there has been no discussion to resettle Kosovo refugees in the United States," said Richard Robinson of NAMB's ministry evangelism team, "but this discussion will likely take place very soon."

Robinson said he anticipates that refugees will request asylum in the United States and asks that Southern Baptists begin praying about their involvement in resettling these families.

"The United States government does not finance the

resettlement of refugees," Robinson said. "Charitable organizations and churches bear the responsibility."

Thus far, more than 600,000 people have fled the Kosovo region of Yugoslavia, seeking refuge in Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The United States has committed to building refugee barracks in Albania and, if conditions there become dire, may airlift up to 20,000 refugees to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba, Robinson said.

Robinson said concerned Southern Baptists can respond in the following ways:

- ◆ Pray fervently for an end to the hostilities in Kosovo.

- ◆ Provide financial assistance for Kosovo refugees

through the International Mission Board. Contributions should be designated for Kosovo relief and sent to: IMB, Office of Finance, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230, Attn: Kosovo Refugee Relief.

- ◆ Pray about serving as a sponsor for Kosovo refugees through NAMB's refugee resettlement program, should the decision be made to resettle Kosovo refugees in the U.S.

NAMB's office of immigration ministries helped resettle 689 refugees representing 213 families from 18 countries in 1998. With the help of 70 sponsoring Southern Baptist churches, 108 people made professions of faith, 55 were baptized, and 625 were enrolled in Bible study.

According to the U.S.

Committee for Refugees, there are 12 million refugees worldwide and the United States will be asked to resettle more than 70,000 of them in 1999.

"Refugee sponsorship is an exciting way to be on mission with God among future Americans," Robinson said.

For more information, contact NAMB's office of immigration ministries at (770) 410-6343 or rrobinson@namb.net.

**THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

**THE BAPTIST
Record**

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WCC rededicates historic Crawford Hall

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Under warm and sunny noonday skies, William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg rededicated an historic house

as the Baptist-affiliated campus' new Baptist Student Union (BSU) Center on April 13.

Tim Glaze, BSU director for WCC, estimated that over 200 students, faculty members, administrators, trustees, and guests attended the dedication service on the lawn in front of Crawford Hall in the center campus.

Glaze said that on most Baptist college campuses, the BSU does not have its own building. He said that having this building at WCC indicates how important BSU has become on the campus.

Glaze said the building would provide a meeting place for students to gather between classes and at other times — "especially commuter students," he said. "This will give them a place to drop off some of their stuff while attending classes."

Glaze also pointed out the strategic location of the house between Wilkes Hall, the cafeteria, and The Coffee House, a popular student-run gathering place.

"It's not big enough for us to have our large meetings, but we can have smaller meetings there," he said.

The house also has two offices, for Glaze and BSU assistant director Alyssa Hurst; a kitchen; recreation room; living room; and restroom facilities.

Glaze pointed out that television monitors located throughout the house are wired to a computer and can be used to run continuous announcements and photos from recent BSU activities.

"The renovation work was done by the students," Glaze said. "The funds were provided by local church support."

Featured speaker Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, reminded

students that the building was a house, and, like their own houses, is a place of learning, love, and leaving.

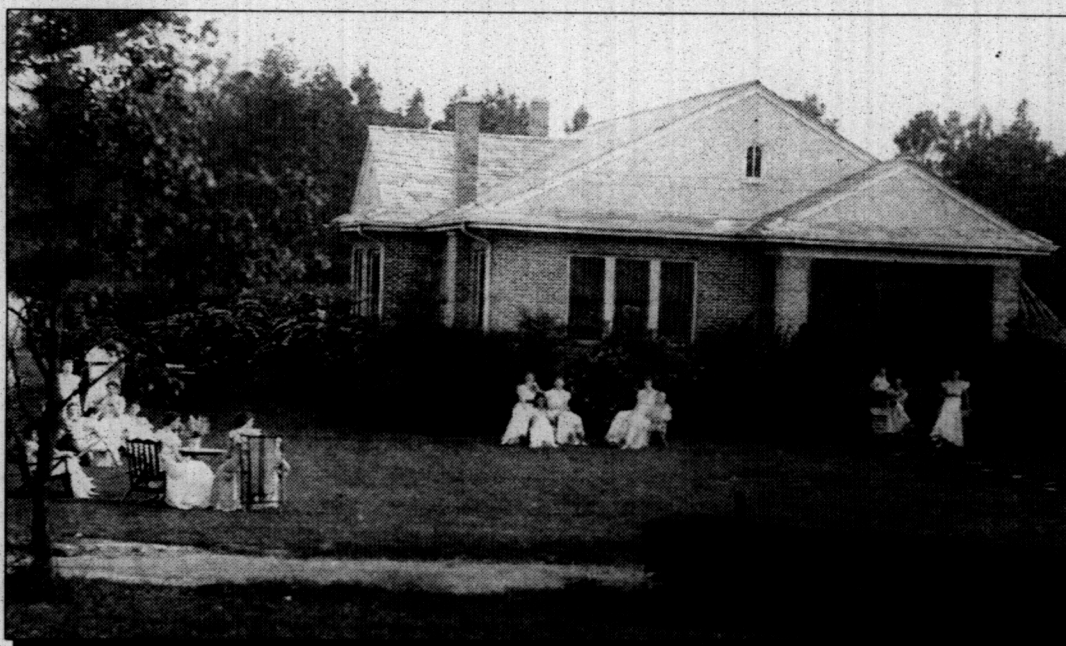
Crawford Hall is one of the most historic buildings on the WCC campus, according to Donna Wheeler, director of alumni relations.

house was returned to its original status as a home economics building.

In 1976 the building was renovated and named for Mrs. W. W. Crawford, WCC trustee and wife of a prominent physician. In 1992 the house was vacated and fell into disuse until being renovated to hold the offices of alumni relations in 1997. It was also used as a faculty center for small meetings and receptions.

Glaze indicated the school is experiencing record numbers of students involved in BSU activities. Eleven WCC students are serving as summer missionaries in 1999. In addition, the BSU is planning a mission trip to Mexico during the summer of 1999.

PRAYER FOR BSU — Steve Bublitz (below), minister to adult students at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, offers the benediction at the April 13 rededication of William Carey College's Crawford Hall as the new Baptist Student Union Center on the Hattiesburg campus. Though the habits and dress of students have changed over the years, the building has remained an important center for campus life. (Photo by Carl M. White)



Crawford Hall, circa 1929 (above)

Built in 1926 at the cost of \$16,783, it was known as the Model Home and housed the Home Economics Department of the institution that was then known as Mississippi Women's College.

In 1946, the building became the college president's home, first occupied by President and Mrs. I. E. Rouse and then by President and Mrs. Ralph Noonkester.

A new president's home was built in 1961. At that time the old



'Texas-focused' literature to debut in 2000

DALLAS (ABP) — The Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) will produce its own "biblically based, Texas-focused" Bible-study material, beginning in March 2000.

Texas Baptists authorized publication of the material in 1997, when the state convention approved a slate of recommendations by an Effectiveness/Efficiency Committee, revamping the 2.5 million-member organization's programs and operations.

One recommendation directed "that literature and other resources for Sunday School, discipleship training, missions organizations, and other Bible study groups be developed as either a supplement to existing materials or a substitute for existing materials for those who so choose."

The materials should "provide information on Baptist missions, with a special emphasis on Texas Baptist missions; Baptist distinctives; stewardship; ethics; and other subjects," the recommendation said.

The BGCT Sunday School/discipleship division has developed the literature pro-

ject. Two committees recently authorized spending up to \$250,000 for the development, production and distribution of literature, which will be released for use beginning in March 2000, administrative committee chairman Mateo Rendon, told the BGCT Executive Board Feb. 23.

"In keeping with (its) commitment to the churches and the Great Commission, the BGCT is preparing distinctive Bible-study materials for Baptist churches in Texas who have expressed a desire for additional resources and who choose to utilize them," said Rendon, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista in Corpus Christi.

Critics of the 1997 recommendations said they signaled a distancing from the Southern Baptist Convention by the moderate-led BGCT and that by publishing literature the state convention would compete with the denomination's official publishing arm, but Rendon said the materials would fill a niche not currently being met by another publisher.

"The materials will be different from any currently available in that

they will be undated, deal with Bible books and provide information on the challenge of the Texas, national and worldwide mission fields and on the resources of the BGCT to help meet that challenge," Rendon said. "The materials will be written by persons from Texas Baptist churches and will focus on Baptist principles, polity and beliefs."

Rendon said publication of the materials does not signal that the Texas convention is forming a "publishing house," as critics have claimed. He cited several "safeguards," which he said protect the convention from moving deeper into the publishing business:

- Cooperative Program unified-budget funds will not be used to print and distribute the materials, he said.

- After the market for the literature develops, it is to be produced on a "cost-recovery" basis — with subscription fees paying for publication. This is to be done "as soon as possible," probably within three years, he said.

- Rather than expanding

the state staff to accommodate publishing business, the convention is working with Ross West, a veteran Bible-study curriculum developer. West will design and edit the materials on a contract basis and will not join the convention staff.

West is president of Positive Difference Communications and coordinator for Christian Education Resources, both of Rome, Ga. He also is part-time associate pastor for education and outreach at Garden Lakes Church in Rome. He is a former editor of Bible-study materials for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and has a doctorate from New Orleans Seminary.

- Writers will be well-known and trusted Texas Baptists — people in whom Texas Baptist churches have confidence, Rendon said.

- Materials will be printed in non-dated quarterlies. Teachers and pupils will study from the same materials, although teachers also will have access to other materials that suggest teaching procedures.

- The literature primarily will be designed for adult Sunday School, but it will be applicable for study at other times.

Texas Baptist churches will determine the extent of the use of the new literature, said Bernie Spooner, director of the BGCT Sunday School/discipleship division.

"In Baptist life, churches are free to use whatever resources they choose," Spooner said. "Hopefully, those churches who are not using Southern Baptist Convention curriculum, as well as those currently using non-Baptist curriculum, will consider using these materials, prepared especially for use by Texas Baptists for Texas Baptists."

These announced plans for producing new literature represent a good "beginning place" to accomplish what the Effectiveness/Efficiency Committee intended, said Ferris Akins of Ballinger, Texas, who was chairman of a subcommittee that dealt with the literature issue.

"We envisioned literature written by Texas Baptists, for Texas Baptists and accountable to Texas Baptists," he said.

He said the literature should uphold cherished doctrines including the priesthood of believers, the separation of church and state and an emphasis on missions. "It was our thinking and still is that many churches will get little missions teaching unless it is included in the Bible-study material on Sunday morning."

Gulfshore ribbon cutting



CUTTING THE RIBBON — Gulfshore Assembly "C" wing, which has undergone a renovation process, was reopened for use at the Baptist Student Union Leadership Training Conference, March 26 - 28, 1999. The wing has 32 rooms, with a capacity of 252 persons, along with a multipurpose room. Renovation cost \$1.3 million and is the first of a multi-phase project. Pictured (from left) at the ribbon cutting are the members of the renovation committee: Wayne Edwards, director of missions, Lauderdale Association; Frank Simmons, Gulfshore manager; Shirley Futral; Barri Shirley, business administrator, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer, MBCB; James Francis, minister of music, West Heights Church, Pontotoc. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Texas committee to counter 'slanderous attacks'

DALLAS (ABP) — A special committee will be appointed to defend leaders of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) against "slanderous attacks" by critics of the BGCT.

A motion to create the committee was presented to the BGCT Executive Board Feb. 23 by Dan Curry, pastor of South Oaks Church in Arlington.

Curry made the motion in an emotional speech during the time for miscellaneous business in the Executive Board's winter meeting. His motion passed overwhelmingly.

"I'm tired of the misleading and slanderous attacks on our leaders," Curry said. "I believe it's time to take a stand and defend our brothers and our state convention and say enough is enough."

Although not identifying these critics, Curry cited what he called unfounded allegations about the beliefs of BGCT leaders on issues such as homosexuality and abortion.

BGCT leaders have expressed concern in the past that their beliefs and convention actions have been misrepresented by people associated with Southern Baptists of Texas, a newly formed conservative state convention created to align more closely with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

A video containing allegations against BGCT leaders recently has been circulating across the state, presumably distributed by parties interested in pushing Texas Baptist churches into closer alignment with the SBC's conservative leadership.

Last fall, a document purporting to contrast the views of BGCT leaders and SBC leaders was circulated in some churches with-

out explanation of its origin. Southern Baptists of Texas leaders publicly disavowed any role in distributing such a document.

Atty. urges child safeguards

WACO, Texas (ABP) — Churches can help prevent child abuse and protect themselves and their workers from lawsuits by putting together prudent policies, Fort Worth attorney Butch Korb told participants in a recent conference sponsored by Truett Seminary and the Baptist Joint Committee.

Korb suggested four actions churches can take:

- Adopt worker-screening policies. Screening is needed both for volunteer and paid workers.

- Follow the "two-adult" rule. At no time should one adult be left alone with children.

- Practice the "six-month" rule. Churches should determine a reasonable time to become acquainted with new members before recruiting them to work with children.

- Memorialize "due diligence." Document everything. Write down every step taken in the selection and supervision of workers with children.

New study asks: 'How Much Is Enough?'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — "By almost any standard of measurement, America is in trouble... and many people do not understand that God has the answers they so desperately need."

Well-known author, financial planner, and Christian businessman Larry Burkett spoke to the needs of Christian families, especially regarding their stewardship before God, Feb. 22 at the Executive

Committee meeting in Nashville, Tenn. Burkett teamed with officials of Church Stewardship Services of LifeWay Christian Resources in announcing a new stewardship emphasis: "How Much Is Enough? 30 Days to Personal Revival."

The emphasis is designed to "capture the attention and imagination of thousands of believers during the first quarter of the year 2000," Gary L. Aylor, program director

for the LifeWay group, told the Executive Committee in introducing Burkett, president and founder of Christian Financial Concepts, Atlanta.

The stewardship emphasis combines the resources of five Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) agencies. LifeWay, International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, Annuity Board and Woman's Missionary Union sponsor the month-long study designed to involve the church family.

Once during each of the four weeks of the study, people meet in small groups to discuss the questions and explore answers. The small group time will conclude with a short video clip, exploring biblical concepts with a summary by Burkett.

At the close of the study, there is a special all-church celebration planned, giving thanks for the life-change and personal victories that occurred during the study.

Burkett said in a typical church of 100 families, 37 families give nothing to their church. "If you change the heart, the giving will follow," Burkett said.

"Where we spend our money tells where our hearts are. Giving is truly a reflection of what's in our hearts."

"Christ said the greatest threat to Christianity is not drugs, sex, murder, rape or even politicians! The greatest threat is materialism," Burkett said, paraphrasing Matthew 6:24. "People spend more than they earn, about \$1.10 for every dollar earned."

Burkett said he hopes the new emphasis would help "swing the tide back in the right direction in the local church."

The study, available following its introduction to the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta in June, includes a daily interactive study written by Kay Moore, Richmond, Va., author and former editor at LifeWay who also has been a newspaper editor and reporter.

Burkett's ministry is dedicated "to teaching God's principles for financial management." He is heard on more than 1,100 radio outlets worldwide and is the author of more than 50 books on finances. A Southern Baptist, Burkett is a member of Blackshear Church, Oakwood, Ga.



Burkett

States produce stewardship materials

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP and local reports) — Mississippi has joined three other state Baptist conventions to produce stewardship materials for use across the Southern Baptist Convention. "New Century Giving" provides materials for a three-Sunday emphasis which places the lordship of Jesus Christ as the declarative biblical principle and sacrifice as the giving model," said Jim Rich, stewardship director for the Missouri Baptist Convention in Jefferson City.



Michel

"It is strongly Bible-based, with the event of Jesus' encounter with the young ruler in Matthew 19:21-29 as the focal passage," Rich said.

The guide includes instructions, sample worship service agendas, worship handouts, preaching suggestions, dramatic sketches, offering envelopes, age-graded Sunday school leaflets, teacher's guides, poster and clip art, and follow-up ideas.

David Michel, stewardship director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said the program challenges believers to examine their personal spiritual contentment and to clarify their commitment to Christ.

"In the first century, Jesus said, 'It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of Heaven.' In the 21st century we need a metaphor for Christian living that is just as radical. New Century Giving calls us out of our affluence and complacency and asks us to focus on bringing to fulfillment the kingdom of God," Michel said.

New Century Giving is unique in several respects, said Rich, who administrated the effort among state conventions in Missouri, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Florida.

"It rose from the grassroots," he said. "It came from the vision of those who promote stewardship growth every day." The program is nonprofit and completely funded through Cooperative Program gifts.

"Amid a changing day as a denomination, the four state [stewardship] leaders desired to create a simple set of resources that would be available to all state stewardship leaders to develop stewards," Rich said.

David Wagner, stewardship and Cooperative Program ministries specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, said, "As we approach the new century, New Century Giving is a way to challenge people to acknowledge God's ownership, to make Jesus Lord of all and to give at a sacrificial level."

Printed materials for the New Century Giving materials will be made available to all state conventions. Initial orders for the 17-piece program packet have totaled 1.9 million, Rich said. Design and production of materials were coordinated by the Missouri Baptist Convention stewardship and public relations departments.

For more information on New Century Giving, contact Michel at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

IS IT RAINING IN YOUR WORLD?

The Bible says it rains on the "just" and the "unjust." At times the "just" want it to stop raining and at other times they want it to start.

One day recently I was supposed to be at a noon meeting in Brookhaven. I rushed through the rain to get into my car and head south. It was raining so hard I could see only a short distance. The traffic was moving slow. The water was puddled up on the road. It was raining hard and steady, but about half way to Brookhaven it lightened to a mist and then stopped altogether.

In fact, when I got to Brookhaven they had not had any rain. The sun was shining and spring flowers were just gleaming brightly all over town.

I finished the meeting and got back in my car for a quick dash back to Jackson. It was beautiful! The temperature was in the mid-70's and the sun



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

bathed everything. When I got near Jackson it started to rain a little, then a little bit more, and then a little bit more, and then came lightening and thunder. I was in a downpour. It never stopped raining in Jackson and it never started in Brookhaven.

When I arrived at the Baptist Building my little car temperature gauge had dropped from the mid-70's to the high 50's — from sunshine to soaking rain.

I see this sort of thing frequently as I travel from one end of the state to the other. At times the temperature and atmospheric conditions are

dramatically different from one place to another.

In a similar fashion, I have observed that spiritual temperature and heavenly atmosphere are often different from one place to another. An association may be alive, vibrant, and enjoying the blessings of God in unusual ways in one part of the state, while another association of churches may be in the doldrums, wondering when the clouds will ever go away.

I have been in churches where it seemed as though the Lord had decided to open the windows of Heaven and dump

huge loads of blessings right in the midst of folks. I have been in other churches that seemed to be living in the middle of a desert on a cold winter night.

In time, the conditions may change and the church that was blessed may be burdened, and the church that seemed to be in a drought experiences the refreshing rain of God. That, in part, is why it is difficult for me to answer the question that I am often asked, "How are things in Mississippi?"

What do I say? "Well, the sun is shining in the south, it's raining in the central part, and it looks like they are going to get snow up north." On other days, things are turned in a totally different direction and it makes describing the whole state almost impossible.

The wonderful thing is God is good in the good times and he is faithful in the bad times — north, south, east or west! I trust he is blessing you today!

Lad/Crusader Day slated for April 24

Lad/Crusader Day will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on April 24 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko. Speakers will include Larry Braswell, missionary to Brazil, and Eddie Graves, missionary to Chile. Activities will include RA races, mission projects, chapter banner, speak-out, campcraft, and show-and-tell competitions. Cost is \$4 per person. Participants should bring a sack lunch; no meals will be provided. Groups desiring overnight camping space at an additional cost of \$2 per person must make reservations with Central Hills Retreat.

The event is sponsored by the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. For more information, contact Carol Wright in the Brotherhood Department at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

To make overnight camping reservations, contact Central Hills Retreat manager Dan West at (601) 289-9730.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Women on Missions of Mt. Olive Church, Carroll County, conducted a community wide canned food drive on Feb. 20. A total of 577 cans of food were collected. The food was given to the food pantry in Carroll County and to the association food pantry in Winona.

Faith Church of Hickory Flat honored the Hickory Flat Volunteer Fire Department on March 6 with a dinner. A plaque was presented to the department expressing appreciation for their dedication. Pictured (front) are David Thompson, chief, accepting the

plaque from Bill Dowdy, pastor. Other firemen pictured are Jerry Moffitt, Billy Hughey,

Heath Quinn, Roger Lacy, Tim Smith, Richard Clark, and Robert Barnett.



Baptist Young Women of Fredonia Church, New Albany, sponsored an "Inside Out Retreat" on Feb. 5 and 6 for girls in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. The participants are pictured with Jennifer Reel, Miss Mississippi Teen USA and keynote speaker.



Faith Church, Hickory Flat

HOMECOMINGS

Union, Mayton: May 2; services, 10:45 a.m.; lunch following services; Brent Bozeman, pastor, message; Jasper Butler, music.

Sardis, Hazlehurst: May 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds following worship services; Dewitt Mitchell, Mendenhall, guest speaker; special music by "New Wine" and Mary McCain; revival, May 3-5; 7 p.m.; Thomas McCormick, Wesson, evangelist; Albert Parsons, Sardis Church, music.

New Sight, Brookhaven: May 1 and 2; Sat. night singing; worship services on Sunday; John Smith, associate pastor, speaker; dinner on the grounds following services; Johnny Sykes, pastor.

Goss, Columbia: April 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal in family life center; 1 p.m. singing; Bill Hale, former pastor, Axis, Ala., guest speaker; The Heritage Gospel Singers, music; David Laird, pastor.

Mount Zion, Taylorsville: April 25; 129th anniversary; Keith M. Thompson, pastor, morning message; music and drama led by Jones County Community College BSU; dinner served in fellowship hall.

Utica, Utica: April 25; 170th anniversary; 10:30 a.m.-noon; dinner on the grounds; Joe Ed Snell, pastor.

Bethesda Church (Oktibbeha): April 25; Charles Guy, guest speaker; noon meal; James Hutcherson, pastor.

Macedonia, Brookhaven: April 25; Sunday School, 9:30

a.m.; morning worship and homecoming service, 10:30 a.m.; covered dish luncheon in the Family Life Center, noon; afternoon service of singing and praise, 1 p.m. Special guests leading worship will be Robert H. Perry, retired pastor of Macedonia Church, and Karen Hardy, former minister of music. Bob Wilson is pastor.



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MINISTER WITH CHILDREN:

Second-Ponce de Leon (SPdL) Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia is seeking a Minister with Children. This person will serve as one of twelve Pastoral Staff team ministry equippers. SPdL is a 3,600 member congregation in north Atlanta drawing people from 108 zip codes throughout the metro region. Offering both traditional and contemporary approaches to worship, SPdL offers its members the choice to support missions and ministries through either the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Southern Baptist Convention and ordains women and men to the diaconate. Applicants should have a seminary degree, professional experience in Baptist congregational leadership with children's ministry, awareness of the contemporary challenges facing children and their families, and a desire to build a team of children's teachers & leaders. Resumes with references should be sent to: Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Minister with Children Search Committee, 2715 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30305.

Deadline is April 28, 1999

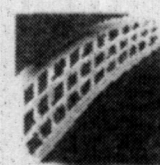
**Are You Concerned
About Pornography
reaching
your church, your home,
or your business
through the Internet?**

**Take Responsibility!
Get Online to Safernet.**

What is Safernet? A full service Internet provider in Mississippi owned by a group of Baptists concerned about garbage on the net. Safernet utilizes server based filtering technology, updated daily, watching the net so you won't have to!

How can my church benefit from Safernet? Your church can partner with Safernet and receive a free web site, seminar and other benefits when members subscribe. Call for details.

We're looking for some good folks to take the Safernet message throughout Mississippi. If you are a retired pastor, education director or lay person, call us for information about earning extra income promoting Safernet.



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Or call toll free 1-800-748-8719!



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Complete Renovations

1-800-654-1294

Jackson, MS 601-957-8844

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 22, 1999

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

Chaplains Spring Retreat

April 30 - May 1

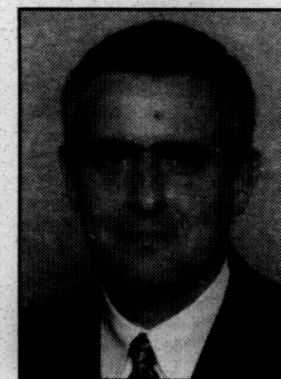
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Pass Christian, Miss.

Workshop Leader

Charles E. Poole

Pastor, Northminster BC
Jackson



The Mississippi Baptist Chaplain's Association will hold its annual Spring Retreat at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. It will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 30 and continue through lunch on Saturday, May 1, 1999.

Charles E. Poole will be our workshop leader. He has previously held pastorates in Georgia, and Washington, D.C. He is the author of numerous articles for various publications, plus three books: "The Tug of Home," "Is Life Fair?" and "Don't Cry Past Tuesday."

Poole's topics will be:

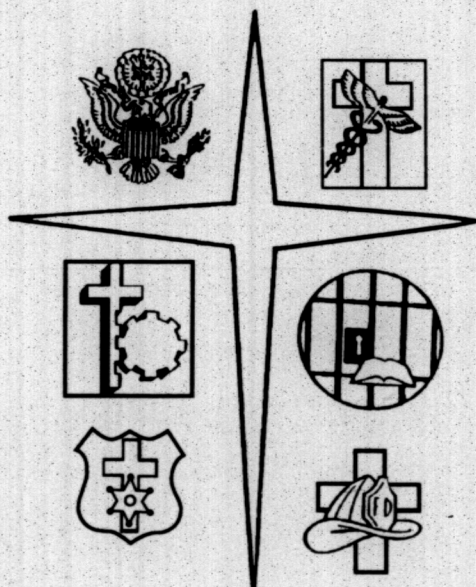
"How Are We Changed?—Practical Theology for Personal Growth"

How are we changed? By the pain we endure.

How are we changed? By the life of quiet devotion.

How are we changed? By the Light we follow.

For additional information, call Richard Brogan, Missions Extension and Associational Administration, MBCB, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800.



Preaching and Worship Conference

May 10-11, 1999

Temple Baptist Church

Hattiesburg

"Preach the Word"



Paul Koonce

Minister of Music, Temple Baptist Church



Dean Register

Pastor, Temple Baptist Church
President, Mississippi Baptist Convention

- **Hardy Denham**, Retired Director, Church Minister Relations, WCC
- **Joe Campbell**, Baptist Pastor/Minister, Wiggins, Miss.



Brian Harbour

Richardson, Tex.
Pastor, FBC, Richardson
Author, Adjunct Professor
Convention Bible Speaker/Teacher

Jerry Songer

Newnan, Ga.
Former Pastor, FBC, Roswell, Ga.
Former Pastor, Central Hills BC
Chattanooga, Tenn.
Conference/Seminar Leader



Registration Form

Preaching and Worship Conference

Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg • May 10-11, 1999

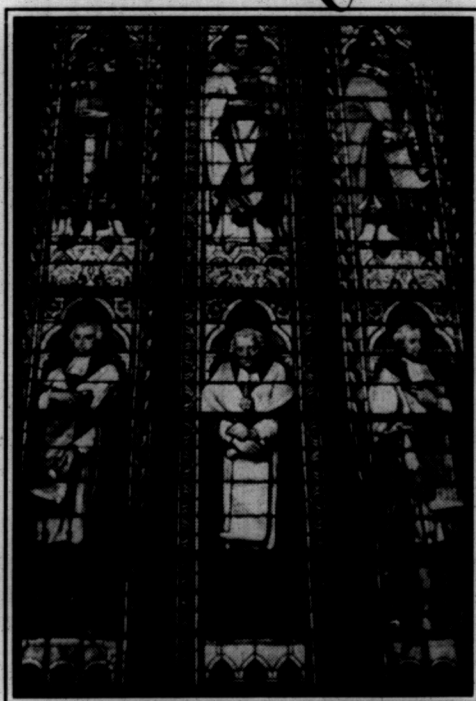
Name _____

Address _____

Church _____ Association _____

Phone _____ e-mail Address _____

Mail to: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Please pre-register by May 3, 1999, so that adequate materials can be provided.





Gary Permenter
Worship Leader



Kevin Williams
Music Worship Leader

Super Summer '99 July 19-23

Mississippi College & FBC, Clinton

Super Summer Mississippi is for the young person who is a mature and responsible Christian leader. Super Summer may not be for your entire group. Mississippi College and FBC, Clinton, are the hosts for Super Summer, July 19-23. Young people attending Super Summer Mississippi spend approximately 20 hours in evangelism and discipleship training. Quality youth leaders from our state lead our youth in study. Youth are trained in how to share their faith, how to have a quiet time, how to memorize scripture, how to find God's will for their lives, and more. They are also challenged and equipped to utilize their talents to penetrate their culture for Christ in a creative and effective way. Throughout Super Summer young people are encouraged to use the freedom they have in Christ to change the world.

Financial Requirements

The total cost for Super Summer during the registration period is **\$145** per student and adult; amount includes food, housing in the school dormitory, materials, and T-shirt.

Due to construction at Mississippi College **SPACE WILL BE LIMITED THIS YEAR.** Registration begins **April 19** and ends **June 30.** Students registering by June 30 are guaranteed a Super Summer T-shirt.

Students registering after **June 30** will be subject to a **\$25 (per person) late registration fee. NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER JULY 8.**

Guidelines for all SS candidates

1. Demonstrates leadership qualities and is a growing Christian.
2. Faithful involvement in worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday night youth activities.
3. Complete at least one level of a discipleship study (i.e. Survival Kit, DiscipleYouth, DiscipleNow...).
4. Memorized a minimum of 10 scripture verses relating to discipleship, evangelism, or a disciple study.
5. Share their personal testimony with the youth group.
6. Share the Gospel with at least one person this year.
7. Completed at least the 8th grade in 1999, but not yet in college.
8. Agree to attend all SS sessions.

For more info call the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800.

"2 by 2"

Mom and Me Day



For preschoolers (ages 3 to pre-first)
and their parents.

Saturday, May 1, 1999
Camp Garaywa, Clinton
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$5 per person (lunch included)

To register or for more information, contact Debbie Sills, WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, 601-968-3800 or 800-748-1651.

Deadline to register is April 23.

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY FESTIVAL

(two locations)

Saturday

June 5

(No admission fee)

Aiken Village

Starkville

(College View Street)

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



- International Food Service • Moon Walk
- Face Painting

Continuous Program with:
Juggling Dave Finnigan Family
Korean Children's Choir
Puppets, Music, Clowns

Woodland Hills Baptist Church
Jackson, 7 - 9 p.m.

with Korean and Spanish joint fellowship with
refreshments and Juggling Finnigan Family.
Sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

Cross-Country Training for the 21st Century

'99 State Singles Retreat

May 29-31, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Pass Christian (228-452-7261) • Visa cards accepted



Special Guest
J.J. Jasper
Disc Jockey for
American Family
Radio, Tupelo



Special Guest
David Adams
Minister with Singles
Olive Baptist Church
Pensacola, Fla.

Saturday, May 29

1:30 p.m. Registration
3:30 Faculty Meeting, Room 15
4:00 **1999 Jamboree - Auditorium**
Gwen Williams, Miss Chocolate, New Orleans, La.
J.J. Jasper, disc jockey for American Family
Radio, Tupelo
Life Church Band and Praise Team, Laurel
5:30 Supper
7:00 **First Training Sessions**
"Spiritual Warfare Track" (continue)
Gwen Williams - Room 15
"Single Parenting" (only once)
James Haynes, Minister of Singles, FBC,
Biloxi
Room 17
"Games for Singles" (repeat)
Wayne Pinkerton, FBC, Greenville
"Drama and Clowning" (repeat)
Ronney Joe Webb, FBC, Laurel - Room 7
"Singles Guide to Building Wealth" (repeat)
Larry Boggs, Ridgeland - Room 9
"Humor Is the Best Medicine" (repeat)
J.J. Jasper - Rooms 11 & 12
"Prayerlife" (repeat)
Jan Halford, Calvary BC, Jackson - Room 21
"Building Relationships" (repeat)
David Adams, Minister of Singles, Olive BC,
Pensacola, Fla. - Room 19
8:00 **Perspective/Worship** - Auditorium
9:00 **Ice Cream Fellowship** - Snack Area

Sunday, May 30

7:00 a.m. **Surf Sound** with Al and Peggy Woodhouse,
Corinth - Snack Area
Breakfast
7:30 **Second Training Sessions**
9:00 "Divorce" (only once), James Haynes - Room 17
Break
10:00 **Women's Training** - Gwen Williams,
Auditorium
10:30 **Men's Training** - David Adams, Room 15

Sunday Afternoon Training Options:

New Orleans Trip
Swamp Trip
Mission Adventures Training Trip
Coastal Trip
Canoe Trip
Other Opportunities

5:30 p.m. Seafood Banquet
7:00 **Perspective/Concert** by Life Church Band &
Praise Team
8:30 Ice Cream/Night Swimming Fellowship

Monday, May 31

7:00 a.m. **Surf Sounds**
7:30 Breakfast
9:00 **Third Training Sessions**
"Self-Esteem," James Haynes, Room 17
"Leadership," David Adams, Room 19
10:00 Break
10:30 **Perspective/Worship**
Noon Lunch

For more info call the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800.

1999 State Singles Retreat Registration Form

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Church _____
No. of Males _____ No. of Females _____
No. in Unit A (\$90 per adult - 2 in room) _____
No. in Unit C (\$83.60 per adult - 4 in room) _____

Send \$30 deposit per person after March 1 to:
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
100 First Street
Pass Christian, MS 39571
(You may use your Visa Card), Phone: 1-228-452-7261

The Central Hills Experience

Hidden in central Mississippi lies 540 acres of wooded hills where thousands across the state have come together to worship Christ. Founded in 1978, Central Hills Baptist Retreat serves as a Royal Ambassador camp for boys during the summer months. "Central Hills is away from the noises and activities that occur in normal life," said coordinator Dan West.

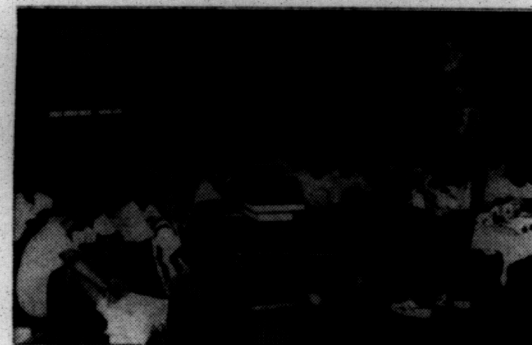
Programs offered at Central Hills include an overnight Lad/Dad weekend for grades 1-3 where the camper and his father spend one Friday night together as well as a resident camp for boys entering grades 4-12. This camp is a four night experience which begins on Monday at 10 a.m. and lasts until 10 a.m. Friday.



R.A.s are led on a tour of one of the many trails at Central Hills.

Camperers at Central Hills are assigned to a chapter according to age groups. Each chapter has a counselor who is constantly in contact with them. Assisting the counselor is another staffer who serves in another position such as an activity instructor. "Our staffers are Christian young men who not only live but also teach and apply the word of God in every day life," said West.

Daily activities at Central Hills include Bible study, missions study, swimming, and handcrafts. Other available activities include a ropes course and a rifle range. Archery and campcraft skills are also possibilities for the campers. Many campers opt to ride horses on the trails of Central Hills or canoe the 15-acre lake located on the campgrounds.



Boys attend a mission study in the lodge.

Every night there is worship time led by the staffers as well as devotional time, West said, "This is an opportunity for campers to be in nature in a Christian activity where they can see the handiwork of the Lord."

Many boys will experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ while others will find their faith deepened as they spend a week at Central Hills this summer. Would you

like for the boys of your church to have this experience?

To find out how your youth group or camper can experience Central Hills, call Dan West at 601-289-9730.



Campers swim in Central Hill's Junior Olympic sized swimming pool.

By Elizabeth Didlake
Public Relations intern
and student at MC

Pray this day for...

April 23- May 6, 1999

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

Importance of Midweek Prayer Meeting

"No church can accurately obey Jesus' commands or reflect the biblical record without the people regularly gathering for corporate prayer."

John Franklin, LifeWay Christian Resources

Life Commitment Sunday (Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Emphasis). Pray that Christians of all ages will make commitments to serve Christ by going to certain places to serve, but if they can't go, make a commitment to pray daily for those who do go.

Christian Home Week (Discipleship & Family Ministry). Walk together with God in a way that is meaningful for both husband and wife. This is the most important priority - to join ourselves with God and ultimately the most fulfilling way to a sound marriage.

For Growing Disciples; Evangelism Mentoring; Families; FBC, Ridgeland (Discipleship & Family Ministry and Evangelism).

For Baptist Building Staff Planning Week. Pray that plans will be made which will challenge Mississippi Baptists to reach the lost in our state and around the world.

Russian Christians are erecting a "wall of prayer" against spiritual darkness. Churches in the region between the Caspian and Black seas are praying that God will prevent the spread of Islam from Turkey and Iran into their territory. Please pray that the message of Christ will be heard in Turkey and Iran.

For Senior Adult Choir Festival, Alta Woods BC, Jackson (Church Music).

Ask God to call out laborers to share the gospel with Madurese, Jawara and Osing people groups in East Java, Indonesia.

Baptist representatives Gary and Judith Barber have begun work in a new region, Ivana Frankivask, which lies in the southwestern part of Ukraine. Plans are underway to begin a training school for younger leaders and pastors who have not had the opportunity to receive formal training. Ask God's leadership and power as this work is begun.

Marion Reynolds is the chaplaincy director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Little Rock, AR. Pray for the many volunteer chaplains in Arkansas. With growing concern for prison inmates and their families, pray that the Lord will call out people to minister to them. Pray for the hospice chaplains and those who respond to disasters.

For Reconciliation Workshop Lebanon Assn. Office, Hattiesburg (Missions Extension & Associational Administration); Professional Preschool/Children's Ministers Retreat, Patterson Place, Clinton (Equipping Team); Music Mississippi, Eagle Ridge Conference Center, Raymond (Church Music).

Pray that The National Day of Prayer today will be a time of fellowship and prayer for Christians of all denominations. Pray for our country and its leaders that Christian examples will be seen by all Americans as well as the people of other nations.

For Keeping Your Church Out of Court, Gulf Coast Assembly; Central BC, Brookhaven (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries); Father/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa (WMU); Missionary parents Fellowship, Camp Garaywa (WMU); State Handbell Festival, Holmes Community College Forum, Grenada (Church Music).

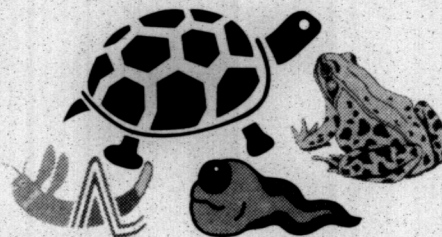
For Lad Crusader Day, Central Hills Retreat (Brotherhood); State Speakers Tournament, Alta Woods BC, Jackson (Discipleship & Family Ministry); State Junior High Bible Drill Tournament, Alta Woods BC, Jackson (Discipleship & Family Ministry).

For Excel Acteens Meeting, Camp Garaywa (WMU); Chaplains Spring Retreat, Gulfshore Assembly (Missions Extension & Associational Administration).

For M & M Day (Mom and Me), Camp Garaywa. Pray with the Baptists of Argentina that they will be able to organize teams from the established churches that will reach the lost and train the people of the rural areas to do personal Bible study.

GA Summer Camp Dates

"Crickets and Tadpoles
Turtles and Frogs"



May 31-June 4	June 28-July 2	Cost \$110 (includes meals, lodging, crafts, and limited insurance)
June 7 - 11	July 5-9	
June 14-18	July 12-16	
June 21-25	July 19-23	

HIGHLIGHTS

- Missionaries • Music • Creative Worship • Swimming
- Recreation • Campfires • Nature • Crafts

For more information contact:

*Robin Keels, GA/Acteens/Camp Consultant, WMU
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

GA Summer Camp Staff and Nurses still needed at Camp Garaywa!

Camp Staff needed from May 25 through July 23. College age and above.

Nurses (nursing students, LPN's or RN's) needed May 25 through July 23. Shorter time periods may be available.

For more information or an application, contact:
Robin Keels, GA/Acteens/Camp Consultant, WMU
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!

3-86
MR. JOEL MARTIN
Casilla 2568, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA
Parents: Tom & Cynthia, Strategy

3-86
MISS LAUREN MCCALL
P.O. Box 5864, Tanga, TANZANIA
Parents: Dennis & Margaret, Agriculture

18-83
MR. ROSS KYZAR
c/o UECB Russia, International Post Office, P.O. Box 171, Moscow, 101000 RUSSIA
Parents: Russell & Melinda, Literature & Distribution/Promo.

20-81
MISS DONNIS GREEN
Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
Parents: Algie & Emily, General Evangelism

23-77
MR. MICHAEL PANTER
William Carey Campus, Box 554, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Parents: Danny & Elizabeth, Associate to the Area Coordinator
SERVE IN EASTERN EUROPE

24-97
MR. LUCAS BRASWELL
c/o William Sellers, 16 Crosswoods Road, Brandon, MS 39042
Parents: Larry & Alicia, Outreach Evangelism, SERVE IN BRAZIL

26-89
MR. WRAY BRASWELL
Caixa Postal 61, 89.802-970 Chapeco, SC, BRAZIL
Parents: Larry & Alicia, General Evangelism

28-89
MISS CHARISSA FORTENBERRY
P.O. Box 228, Lobatse, BOTSWANA
Parents: Robert & Margaret

30-82
Mr. Kyle Martin
Casilla 2568, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA
Parents: Tom & Cynthia, Strategy



HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Crowder Church, Crowder, will host Joy in the Journey Weekend for Women, May 14 and 15. Guest speaker will be Jo Anne Leavell, author of "Joy in the Journey" and "Don't Miss the Blessing." Leavell will be speaking on her book, "Joy in the Journey," which is her story of how she recovered the joy and how to maintain joy in the light of despair. Registration begins Friday at 6:30 p.m. with the conference continuing at 9 a.m. on Saturday. A continental breakfast will be served Saturday from 8:15-8:45 and lunch will be provided at noon. Registration fee of \$15 may be sent to CBC Women's Weekend, P. O. Box 156, Crowder, MS 38622. Deadline is May 7. For further information, call the church at (601) 326-8339.

The Martins will be in concert at North Oxford Church, Oxford, 7 p.m., on April 25. Call Allen Harris at (601) 234-1101 for ticket information.

Youth ministry of Northcrest Church, Meridian, will present TRUTH in concert on April 28 at 7 p.m. For ticket information call Paul Davis at (601) 482-3498.

Big Level Church, Wiggins, will celebrate its 100th anniversary on May 1 and 2. Activities on Saturday will be held from 3-5 p.m. Sunday activities will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (no Sunday School). Speaker for the morning services will be David Grisham and Argile Smith will be the speaker for the 2 p.m. service. Dinner on the grounds will be held at noon. David Perry is pastor. For more information contact Perry at (601) 528-9412.

Unity Church, Leakesville, will sponsor a gospel music event on May 1. Featured will be Bob Scott & Sweet Spirit from Meadville at 6:30 p.m.; The Hedgepeths from Union at 5 p.m.; and Kevin Holifield, local, 4 p.m. Micah Rutland is pastor. For more information about May Day '99, call the church at (601) 394-4887.



Trinity Church, Pearl, held a note burning ceremony celebrating the pay off of its sanctuary on March 28 during homecoming services. Participating (pictured) were Becky McPhail, Amy and Jonathan McPhail, Kenny Goff, pastor, and Mike Kelly, chairman of deacons at Trinity.

REVIVAL DATES

Clear Springs, Coffeeville: April 25-30; 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Smith, Water Valley, evangelist; Lonnie Waller, pastor.

Woodville Heights, Jackson: April 25-28; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Jack Gregory, evangelist; Ray Kirk, music; Wayne Kimbrough, pastor.

Beatline, Philadelphia: April 25-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Smith, director of missions, Neshoba Association, evangelist; Lee Killen, Beatline Church, music; Ben McDaniel, pastor.

Woodville, Woodville: April 25-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; covered dish supper will be served on Wed. at 6:30 p.m.; Odus Jackson, Gloster, evangelist; Dena Longmire, Crosby, music; Gary Bunch, pastor.

Faith, Jackson: April 25-28; Sunday, 10:55 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Fuller Saunders, speaker; Wally Kennedy, music; Greg Wolfe, pastor; services will be held at Gulf Guaranty Conference Center, 4785 I-55 North.

Escatawpa, Escatawpa: May 2-5; 7 p.m.; Gary M. Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale, music; Greg Johnston, pastor.

Society Hill, Oakvale: April 25-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Brian Stewart, Columbia, evangelist; Dudley Williamson, music; Dee DeBold, pastor.

Lighthouse Church, Richland: April 25-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Charles Burnham, Magee, evangelist; Sammy J. McDonald, pastor, music.

Utica, Utica: April 22-25; evangelists, former pastors, are W. T. Dixon, April 22; Howard Brister, April 23; Jack Albritton, April 24; and John Ed Snell, April 25; Freida Germany, Joe Robinson, and Judy Walker, music.

Casting call set for MBCB commercials

The Church Information Support Team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) will hold open casting calls for the latest MBCB-produced statewide broadcast campaign, slated to go into production in late May.

The casting calls for the "Our Prayer" television and radio commercials will be held May 1 and May 8 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the chapel of the Baptist Building, which is located at 515 Mississippi Street in downtown Jackson near the New Capitol.

Tim Nicholas, MBCB communications director, said producers are searching for a diverse look and a wide range of ages, with a goal of having as many different Mississippi Baptist churches represented as possible.

Nicholas said the individuals chosen for the campaign must have flexible schedules and must be in the metro Jackson area for filming on May 21-22.

For more information, contact Nicholas at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson at (800) 748-1651; or Stacey Morrison at Godwin Group, (601) 360-9453.

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BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Staff changes

New Sight Church, Brookhaven, has called John Smith as associate pastor. He began serving in January. He and his wife Nell are retired missionaries after 26 years in Indonesia. Johnny Sykes is pastor.

Blue Mountain College will host the annual Ministerial Alumni meeting on April 23. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Student Union Building. Glen Putman will speak during chapel and Larry Garner will speak at 11:45 a.m. after the testimony and business session.

William Carey College Speech and Debate (Forensics) Team finished its 1998-99 season 11th in the nation, according to recently announced final results of The National Parliamentary Debate Association's (NPDA) annual sweepstakes competition. "The Crusaders' 11th place ranking is impressive considering that over 300 colleges and universities participate in NPDA," said John Miller, director of forensics.

Blue Mountain College has named Reggie Bridges of Saltillo, recipient of the 1999 Scholarly Achievement Award sponsored by the American Bible Society. Bridges ranks among the top students selected each year from colleges and seminaries throughout the United States to receive this honor. As a student in the Biblical Division, Bridges excelled in the study of New Testament Greek.

William Carey College will present the Crusader Athletic Reunion Weekend and Spring Golf Scramble, April 23-24, on the Hattiesburg campus. Registration for the Golf Scramble will begin at noon on Friday at Pine Belt National Golf Course. At 5 p.m. the Crusaders will take

on Louisiana College at Morgan Field on campus. The pre-game alumni batting practice and home run derby will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday. Also, on Saturday the crawfish boil begins at noon and another baseball game against Louisiana College will take place. For more information about the Athletic Reunion and/or Golf Scramble contact Donna Wheeler at (601) 582-6167 or (800) 962-5991 ext. 167.

William Carey College (WCC) Crusader Baseball Camps will be held June 7-11, 14-18, and 21-25 on the campus in Hattiesburg from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. daily. The June 7-11 and 21-25 day camps are for ages 7 to 12 and will include fundamental aspects of all phases of the game with

individualized instruction. The June 14-18 day camp is for ages 13 to 17. Bobby Halford has directed WCC baseball teams to ten regional tournaments in the past 12 seasons. The camp will feature John Stephenson, former WCC coach, who currently coaches in the New York system. Other instructors will include the Crusader's pitching coach, Stephen Fuller; standout infielder for the Crusaders, Mark Enis; and New York Yankees minor league player, Neal Gregg. Applications may be obtained by calling the baseball office at (601) 582-6110 or write Bobby Halford, William Carey College, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5499.

Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education will offer a workshop entitled "Police Liability." Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 6-8:30 p.m. on the following dates: May 11, 18, 25, and June 1. The cost is \$95 per person (includes case studies). For registration and additional information, call Ken Gilliam at (601) 925-3263.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



The Ainsworths and Nelson

A. J. and Daisy Ainsworth were recently recognized and honored for their service to Bolton Church, Metro Association. This year they are celebrating 65 years of marriage and he has served 65 years as an ordained deacon. The church honored him as deacon emeritus. The Ainsworths are pictured with Cliff Nelson, pastor.

Julia Massey Williams and Kaysha Clark are two of four recipients of the Women's Auxiliary Scholarship Awards at New Orleans Seminary.



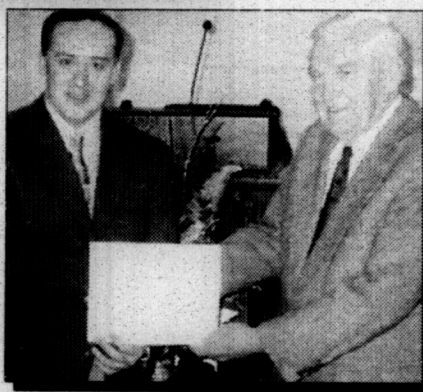
Williams

Williams of Water Valley is working on the master of arts in christian education degree in youth and campus ministries. Clark of Long Beach is working on the master of arts in marriage and family counseling degree.



Clark

Mark Mayo (left), who recently surrendered to the ministry, was presented a license certificate by Leon Young, chairman of deacons of Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove.



Mayo and Young

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PART TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Send resume to Personnel Committee, Georgian Hills Baptist Church, 3759 North Watkins, Memphis, TN 38127.

CHURCH RETREAT OPEN YEAR ROUND. Panama City Beach, Florida. Choice dates available this summer. Reasonable rates, modern dorm facilities, 300 ft. from Gulf of Mexico. A ministry of First Baptist Church 1-800-234-0488 for details. Website: www.fbcpcb.com; E-mail address: fbcpcb@panacom.com.

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SARDIS LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH, 24709 HWY 35, Sardis, MS 38666, is in need of used 24-30 passenger bus in good condition. Contact youth committee at 601-578-0865 or 601-563-8517.

FOR SALE: Solid oak pews with cushioned seats. 32 years old, good condition. 31 pews 15' long, 1 pew 10' long, 2 pulpit pews 3'6", 2 choir pews 16', 1 choir pew 20', \$8,000.00. Call First Baptist Church, Troy, TN, (901) 536-4710.

FOR SALE: 24 eight foot pews, 11 thirteen foot pews, 2 five foot pews, 1 pulpit, 1 communion table, and 35 choir chairs. Furniture is available now. Call Trinity Baptist Church, Hammond, LA (225) 294-5336.

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LARGE YOUTH ORIENTED CHURCH seeks a Minister of Youth with experience. A passion for the lost is required and a seminary degree is preferred. Send resume to: Personnel Committee, Calvary Baptist Church 331 Cleveland Street, Clearwater, FL 33755.

WANTED: Our church needs a good used late model 15 passenger van. Call Gene Bragg at (601) 489-3239.

MARRIED COUPLES (WITHOUT CHILDREN) are being sought as full-time, house parents to live with our children on campus. Responsibilities include caring for children ages 5 to 17 who have experienced neglect, abuse or abandonment. Salary and benefits include off-duty housing on campus. Please contact Randy Harrison, Area Administrator, Baptist Home for Children, Jacksonville, FL (904) 721-2711.

TOTAL FAMILY MINISTRY - Nationally known Conference Speaker, Singer, Ventriloquist - Lee Pitts Spooner now booking dates for VBS, 4-day Revival, Crusades, Conferences, Retreats 1-334-660-7628 website@http://members.aol.com/leepitts.

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HOUSE PARENTS NEEDED! Arkansas Baptist Home for Children seeks couple to care for up to eight boys or girls in loving home environment. Housing, salary, insurance, paid vacation and supervision. For more information, contact Royce Aston at 870-367-5358.

WOODLAND HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH is searching for a Minister of Education and Outreach. Minimum of ten years experience with undergraduate and graduate degree. Send resume to Mike Gober, P.O. Box 10114, Conway, AR 72033. Fax (501) 329-0027 or E-mail Mike.gober@conwaycorp.net.

Revival results

Blythe Creek, Mathiston: March 21-24; professions of faith, nine; statements of faith, two; transfer of church letter, one; Bobby Irvin, Greenwood, evangelist; Joe Pate, Kosciusko, music; Danny Irvin pastor.

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SURFING WITH SAFERNET

Editor:

Safernet, Inc., a filtered Internet service, was created in response to the concern of parents, teachers, business owners, and administrators of having Internet "garbage" viewed in their homes, schools, and businesses. Unlike filtering software purchased in stores, Safernet provides a safe Internet by employing state-of-the-art "server side" filtering and blocking technology. Using Safernet as their ISP (Internet Service Provider) insures sub-

scribers they will receive high performance and high-quality access to worldwide sites without the fear that pornography, violence, drug use, vulgar language, crime, and tasteless material will be accessible.

Safernet's filtering system is updated daily by a team of human "web browsers" from the world's leading filtration experts who search the net for objectionable material and upload new blocking data to Safernet's computers.

Churches, youth groups, and ministries can benefit from being sponsored by Safernet when sub-

scribers name their group as a recipient of a portion of their monthly memberships. Safernet will donate 10% of those monthly access fees of any member who lists the church, group, or ministry as a recipient. Churches can also receive a free web site.

Based in Clinton, Safernet benefits from having a direct connection to the backbone of the Internet supplied by one of MCI-WorldCom's operating companies. Safernet has plans to make their service available statewide in the near future and nationwide during 1999. If you would like more informa-

tion about Safernet's services, please call (601) 924-0405 or toll-free (800) 748-8719. E-mail: sales@safernet.net. Web site: www.safernet.net.

Bob Gilmore
Clinton

SESSUICENTINNIAL SET

Editor:

Providence Church of Clayhatchee, Daleville, Ala., is celebrating its sesquicentennial on May 16. As part of the celebration, we are trying to locate any church and church staff members who may reside within your readership area.

We have a large non-resident membership owing in some part to our proximity to Fort Rucker and we hope through this effort to establish contact with these "lost" members. Many have likely joined other churches, and requests for their letters for some reason failed to reach us. We are asking any that are not sure their membership was moved from Providence to contact us by May 16. Contact may be made by writing the homecoming committee at 10 Providence Lane, Daleville, AL 36322 or calling the church office at (334) 598-4987. Better yet, join us in our celebration.

We would deeply appreciate any help you can provide us by publishing this letter, and we extend to your readers a cordial invitation to join us at Homecoming on May 16.

Martha S. Hite, chairman
Homecoming Committee
Daleville, AL

THANKS FOR PERSPECTIVE

Editor:

Thanks so much for providing news and information from a Christian perspective which we do not usually receive from other news sources.

It is alarming to see how "political correctness" has influenced our denomination when we see a letter to the editor which takes a position contrary to the clear Bible teaching that individuals (including Muslims) can only get to heaven by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. (See Eph. 2:8-9 and John 14:6.)

Brooks McCollum
Olive Branch



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

My son's high-school football coach shares his sexual "war stories" with the boys on the team. How can I put a stop to this?

This is very inappropriate conduct for any youth leader—especially in front of young men who are already stimulated by their own hormonal development and bombarded by the sex-crazed entertainment media. You have been presented with an opportunity to give your son an accurate explanation of sexual love inside marriage. You should also talk with your son about romance and the discipline it will take to wait for sex until marriage. Talk with other parents to find out how they are dealing with this issue. Get several of the involved fathers to meet with the coach.

If that meeting is not productive, go to the principal and then to the school board and superintendent, if necessary. Young men tend to come up with exaggerated tales of sexual prowess to impress their peers, but an adult should know better than to engage in such immature behavior.

We are grieving for our best friend's beautiful young granddaughter, who has chosen to leave home for a dangerous life of immorality and drugs. How can we help her grandparents through this tragic time?

Be there to listen and console. Be there to let them talk if they want to, laugh if they can. You cannot control the child,

but you can help your friends to share their hurts and pains.

Your friends need to be assured that their granddaughter is still precious to them and to the Father. She has chosen to go away for a while. We hope that the story will end like the story of the prodigal son and that she will come to her senses. This is done through the prayers and the faithfulness of those who love her, like grandparents and friends. Encourage your friends to stay in prayer and to send notes, cards, small gifts (no cash) to their granddaughter, letting her know that they are still there for her. You can be assured that in this lifestyle there will come a time when she will be all alone and will "arise" and remember those who really cares about her.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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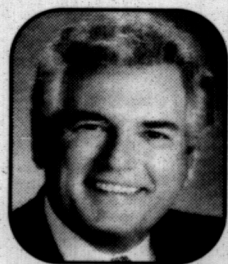
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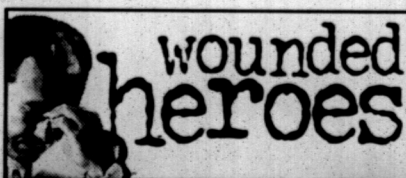
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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Confidence for life

Psalm 46:1-11

By Ken Hester

Award winning photographer Eric Valli, once took a picture of a man on a 395-foot cliff, robbing honey from the world's largest honeybees in the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains. Valli, himself, dangling by a nylon rope was surrounded by thousands of bees and extremely nervous. The veteran honey thief, dangling by a rope ladder, remained calm during the honeybee attack. Valli reported that if he panicked, he would fall to his death. So, he took a deep breath and relaxed knowing that getting stung would be better than falling off the cliff.

Fear can send a person plummeting to destruction. For

believers, we need to realize the strength of our God and hang on to him no matter what the circumstances.

This psalm provides its singer comfort amidst great distress. The great Reformer, Martin Luther sang this psalm when he was surrounded by death threats. The title contains the words "A Song upon Alamo." These words mean this psalm was to be sung at a high pitch for the treble or soprano voices of the Hebrew choir. The high pitch and the marked rests of "Selah" emphasize the peace of the one who trusts in God.

God is proven (46:1-3). The words "a very present help" (v. 1) are emphatically written in



Hester

Hebrew. The words literally mean "a well proved help in trouble."

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses in Scripture and in our own lives that give testimony to the proven help God has been. Their faith settled upon God when nothing else seemed to be settled.

In verses two and three, the psalmist describes an environment that is unstable, shaken, and violent. One can almost hear the Hebrew choir hit their crescendo in this list of catastrophes when the author of such a song designates a rest.

Charles Spurgeon wrote, "Selah." In the midst of such a hurly-burly the music may well come to a pause, both to give the singers breath, and ourselves time for meditation." Our meditation of such a rest points only to the presence of God.

God is present (46:4-7). Verse

four declares his provision of streams for those who trust him. In John 7:38, Jesus reiterated these sentiments. He said, "He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

Verse five proclaims that God's presence is the stabilizing factor for God's city. William Secker once wrote, "Tried she may be, but destroyed she cannot be. Her foundation is the Rock of Ages, and her defense the everlasting Arms."

Verse six may be used to describe recent events in Kosovo. One needs to note, however, that the Word of God still settles the storm. When verse seven claims God as our refuge, we have another pause for reflective gratitude. Our present God is also a powerful God.

God is powerful (46:8-11). In verse eight, when God invites us to see his works, we are escorted not to the creatively beautiful aspects of nature or

the divinely ornate of the changed heart. Instead, we are led to his work of desolation.

When the ancient Romans conquered a nation, they collected the arms of their conquest and set them on fire. A medal struck by the Roman emperor, Vespasian, on finishing his wars, represents the goddess of peace holding an olive branch in one hand, and a lighted torch in the other setting fire to a heap of armor. The warring man has his anger stilled by seeing the overwhelming desolation from his conqueror.

Such is the scene of the conquering God in verse nine. In the light of God's overwhelming power in verse ten, stillness is the only response. We are to still our actions and our words in order to stir our souls. Once in our stillness, we embrace him as our personal refuge, we will experience the powerful rest. "Selah."

Hester is pastor of Mantee Church, Mantee.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

True freedom

John 8:12, 21-36

By Beth W. Cape

It was early morning and the light of the sun was just beginning to color the sky and the clouds over the ocean. My husband and I had been climbing for about twenty minutes up the well-marked trail that led to the top of the Diamondhead crater in Oahu, Hawaii.

Since sunrise was just a few minutes away, we were breathing hard in our effort to get to the top before the sunrise. Suddenly we came upon a cave that went right through the mountain. There was a handrail leading inside so we grabbed it and took off. We slowed down quickly as we

soon saw nothing but darkness. It was scary!

I wanted to turn around but I knew we were very close to the top. Why couldn't we see the end of the tunnel? There was no light at all (unless we looked behind us to see the beginning of the tunnel).

Just when I was starting to panic in all that darkness, my husband said that he felt a curve in the handrail. The tunnel made a right angle and suddenly we could see the light at the end of the tunnel only a few feet away. I stood in the curve of the tunnel and looked at the light behind me and then at the light before me.



Cape

So many times I had used the phrase "the light at the end of the tunnel" but I never really knew what it meant until that moment. I praise God for the light and for the beauty of the sunrise that morning.

In our lives we often have times of troubles and darkness. We can't see how God could be working in the midst of all the confusion, but Jesus identified himself as "the Light." He is the one who can help people see reality and find their way in this tunnel of darkness that we call the world.

In our search for truth, we must first believe. That seems easy for folks who have been in church most of their lives, but Jesus asks us to go beyond just believing. He says that we must continue in his Word to be his disciples.

Is hearing the Word in church once or twice a week enough? "Surely we've heard all the important Bible stories by now; why keep reading them?" some might say.

William Barclay says, "No one can hear or read the words of Jesus once and then say he understands their full meaning. We read a great book many times. To remain in the word of Jesus means constantly to study and think about what He said until more and more of its meaning becomes ours."

As we continue in the Word, Jesus says we will know the truth and the truth will set us free. What is the truth that will set us free? The truth of Jesus shows us what things are really important — the real values in life.

Plato compares men who have never tried to face the truth to prisoners in a deep underground cave. They have

been chained in such a way that they cannot turn their heads. All they can see are shadows thrown by the firelight on the cavern wall and voices reflected back from the wall.

These prisoners of the dark cave think the shadows are realities, and hearing the vague echoes, take them for songs and voices.

"Imprisoned in self-chosen darkness, how few among living men even care for that wisdom which consists in seeing the things that are, and seeing them as they are! Let a man but once catch a glimpse of the true light. Let one ray out of eternity shine down upon him and for him the world and the things of the world shrivel into insignificance." (Mrs. Charles E. Cowman from *Streams in the Desert*, Vol. 2)

Cape is director of children and family ministry at First Church, Picayune.

LIFE AND WORK

Through failure to purpose

John 18:15-18, 25-27; 21:15-22

By Doug Bain

A minor league manager decided to yank his center fielder and play the position himself. His first ball took a bad hop and hit him in the mouth. The second one hit him on the head after he lost it in the sun. The third one hit him between the eyes, going between outstretched hands as he charged a line drive. At this he charged the dugout and collared the center fielder, shouting, "You've got center field so messed up that even I can't do anything with it."

Peter's experience had been a series of failures. He periodically rotated 180 degrees oppo-

sition the position he had just occupied. Such instability surely is why Jesus gave him the new name

"Peter," suggesting a rock-like character so that he could move beyond failure toward a steady identity. The present lesson is especially appropriate after Easter, being about post-resurrection renewal, suggesting that even failure can be redeemed.

Side by side in Scripture are two examples of handling the remorse arising from serious failure. Failure can indeed seem final, even fatal. Our expectations for success can be so unrealistic that failure can suggest that we are just no count, espe-



Bain

cially when we fail in public.

Failure is difficult to incorporate into healthy self awareness. Those who are not free to fail are scarcely free to succeed. Biblical wisdom helps failures be redeemed so as to empower us.

Failure is a common experience (18:15-18, 25-27). At least since Caesarea Philippi Peter had been submerged in the cycles of confession-denial, confessing Jesus as Messiah, denying he was a non-political Messiah. Now as Jesus faced trial for his life, Peter faced a trial of his faith. Peter's failure, whatever his original motivation, was the emphatic denial by a fearful disciple of any association with Jesus.

Failure is not foreign to the human experience and when we sense how to manage that painful phenomenon, growth is

more likely to occur.

Failure can be overcome with new purpose (21:15-17). Peter is shown here in a time of reconstruction still reeling under the impact of disloyalty. How is he to incorporate this failure into his life story and to reconfigure his loyalty around the Lord Jesus?

Jesus provides the occasion for healing to set in, giving Peter three opportunities for commitment, after the three failures to be loyal. God works to reconfigure the tracking pattern set in motion by failure.

The third question and answer reads, "Simon, do you even love me with philo-kind, emotion-based love?" Being grieved, Simon answered, "By factual-observation-knowledge you know all; you know from personal intuitive experience that at least I have emotion-based philo love." This honesty was basic in the move beyond

failure and toward stability.

Failure can lead to renewed commitment (21:18-22). Peter's new assignment of following Jesus would not be easy. He was warned that it would in fact lead to death. To move beyond failure Peter's assignment must be carried out without concern about what was given other disciples. He must also make a radical commitment. Such life lessons provide stable foundations for mature responses to failure.

If we can judge from what we read in 1 Peter, we see there one who has indeed identified with the Lord Jesus as Suffering Servant. Peter learned who Jesus was and what it means to follow him. He also learned that failure in the world's terms may actually be success in kingdom endeavors.

Bain is chairman and professor of the Biblical Division at Blue Mountain College.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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*Jesus Christ
Requests the Honor
of Your Presence
in Heaven!*

YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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FZYIZ VAGMHN FYVMFQ'
ZMHQAQ, PKV TMN P
LNAOAKIA UPWA SMKE
LNPCANQ: OZAQA QZPSS
NAIAYGA ENAPOAN
VPUKPOYMK.

UPNW OFASGA: TMNOC

Clue: U = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Six: Nine.

Seniors ministry requires 'willing heart'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — If you're going to provide care for senior adults, you better do it with a willing heart, a pastoral care expert told senior adult ministry leaders during a seminar in Nashville, Tenn.

"Care is the fundamental capacity to cherish a person to the degree one acts willingly in the person's behalf," said Bob Sheffield, a church consultant for LifeWay Christian Resource's pastor-staff leadership department.

"Willingness can be a challenge — especially if you are on church staff. But people you care for will pick up on it if it's not something you want to do," he said.

Sheffield led a seminar on "Quality Care Giving for Seniors" during a National Senior Adult Leadership Summit, March 29-31, sponsored by LifeWay's discipleship and family group.

"One of the greatest challenges facing the church involves ministering to the ever-increasing number of older adults," Sheffield wrote in "Forward Together: a New Vision for Senior Adult Ministry." Several authors contributed to the LifeWay Press manual, which serves as guide for senior adult ministry.

Senior adults who need care include those in financial difficulty; those who are homebound or who feel "imprisoned" by poor health, drug dependency, lack of mobility; those who are in mourning over the loss of loved ones; and those who are brokenhearted or in despair.

Sheffield listed three senior age groups, including younger seniors (those who need challenges), middle seniors (those who contribute to others' well being), and older seniors (those who deserve respect and attention).

He said churches should involve a "caring team" to meet the specific needs of senior adults. The caring team should include the pastor, staff members, deacons, Sunday School leaders and lay volunteers, Sheffield said.

People who offer to care for senior adults should follow several principles, Sheffield said. They should:

- ◆ Come to grips with their own aging. "You cannot help seniors if you are not in touch with your own aging issues. Someday you might need the same care."
- ◆ Care with and not for seniors. "Seniors need to feel they are independent. Involve them in things and let them contribute. Instead of making decisions for them, give them the facts and let them make their own decisions."
- ◆ Show respect for who and where they are. "Ask their opinion and listen closely

when they share their ideas and views."

- ◆ Mobilize your resources. "Make a list of people in your church who could serve as resources for the senior adults, whether they are lawyers, plumbers or electricians."

- ◆ Don't assume lapses indicate senility. "Memory loss may occur as people grow

- ◆ Don't give advice. "Guidance is OK, but don't make their decisions for them."

- ◆ Don't deny the reality of their feelings. "They may feel lonely and abandoned, even if you don't think they are."

- ◆ Don't try to cheer prematurely. "That can stop them from telling you the way they feel."



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY — Betty and Bob Anderson share a laugh with Lila Tate following a workshop on storytelling at the National Senior Adult Leadership Summit, March 29-31. The three, who attended the summit, sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources Discipleship and Family Group, are members of First Church, Montgomery, Ala. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

older, but don't assume senility has set in."

- ◆ Minister to the extended family. "The family may need a loving word or good deed, too."

Sheffield said senior adults under the watchful care of others could benefit from "active loving," which includes active listening, nonverbal touching and positive reinforcement.

In active listening, Sheffield said he advises caretakers to "stop talking, verbally and mentally. Try to hear what the senior adult feels and not what you feel about the situation. Calm your mind; focus on the person talking."

Sheffield provided a list of what not to do when trying to actively listen:

- ◆ Don't anticipate what's going to be said, and don't finish their sentences.
- ◆ Don't correct them or say they are wrong.
- ◆ Don't judge them.
- ◆ Don't feel you have to solve problems.

- ◆ Don't say, 'I know how you feel' because you probably really don't.

- ◆ Don't divulge confidences.

Acting loving also includes nonverbal touching and positive reinforcement or encouragement.

"Touch conveys care more than we can imagine. Try an appropriate hug, pat on the shoulders, gentle squeeze of the arm or take the person's hand in yours."

Offering compliments and encouragement to a senior adult can go a long way in helping them feel better about themselves, Sheffield said, noting, "Take every opportunity to affirm them for major and minor accomplishments."

Forward Together includes chapters on balanced senior adult ministry, Bible study, discipleship, music, missions, recreation, financial planning and strategic planning. The LifeWay Press book can be purchased in LifeWay Christian Stores or on-line at www.lifewaystores.com.

Specialist offers observations for healthy aging

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — While aging may be unavoidable, it doesn't have to be disabling. "They say, 'As we age, we get weaker.' I say, 'As we age, we stop doing some things that make us strong,'" Branda Polk, health ministries specialist in the discipleship and family adult department of LifeWay Christian Resources, told senior adult ministry leaders attending a session of the National Senior Adult Leadership Summit, March 29-31, in Nashville, Tenn.

"They say, 'As we age, we lose our balance.' I say, 'As we get older, we stop doing things that help us maintain our balance,'" Polk continued.

"We age as quickly as we choose to age. We age because we decide to age."

The issue for leaders of senior adult ministries is, "How can you take care of yourself and serve God as long as he has called you to serve him?" Polk asked.

"We really are created to live long and fruitful lives," she said. "The better you care for yourself, the longer you'll be able to live."

Polk recommended staying physically active. Activities should include strength training, muscle-building actions, stretching, and walking.

"It's very important to stay strong and stay flexible," she

said. "Being able to get down on the floor and back up is important. If you fall, then you're strong enough to get back up."

Polk also urged seniors to "choose good nutrition." Older adults need more antioxidant vitamins that can be obtained by eating five daily servings of fruit and vegetables. A good rule of thumb for daily intake is 20% fat and 30 grams of fiber.

Polk said people should make individual decisions about what foods to avoid, based on personal likes and dislikes.

"Personally, I avoid fried foods like the plague. It's a choice I personally decided to make, but there are some other

things I choose to eat in small amounts," Polk said.

Practice good safety habits, get six to eight hours of sleep each night and be smart in the sun rounded out her list of actions to maintain health.

"As we age, our skin gets thinner. There is nothing we can do about this," Polk said. She urged protecting skin by wearing brimmed hats and covering hands when outside for extended periods.

"You can make each day better by supplementing and shoring up what you're already doing to stay healthy," she said. "When you lose your health, you really do lose a lot of your life."